No. 862,054. PATENTED JULY 30, 1907.

P. E. COLLINS.

TRANSPARENCY.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 7, 1904.

Fig. 1.

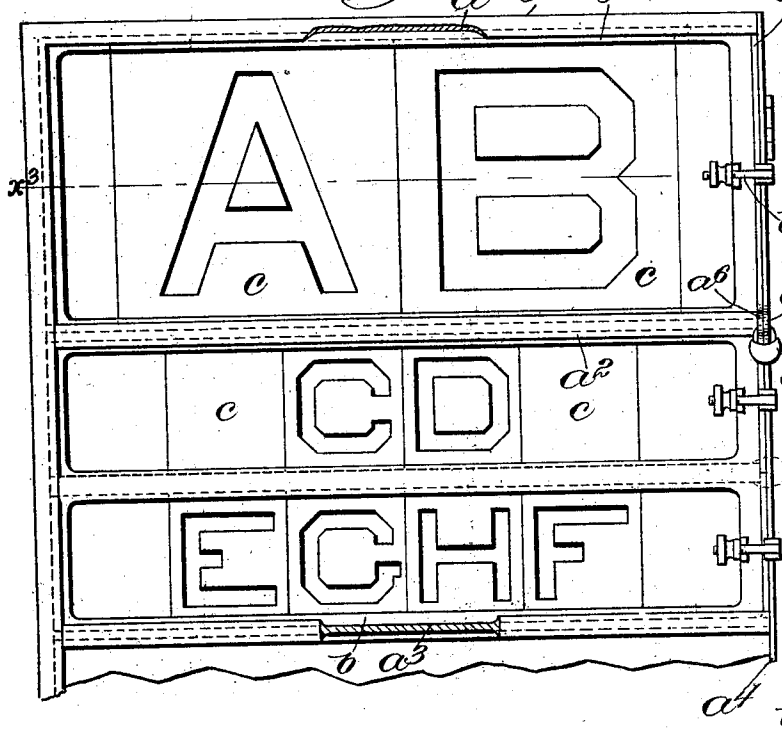


Fig. 2.

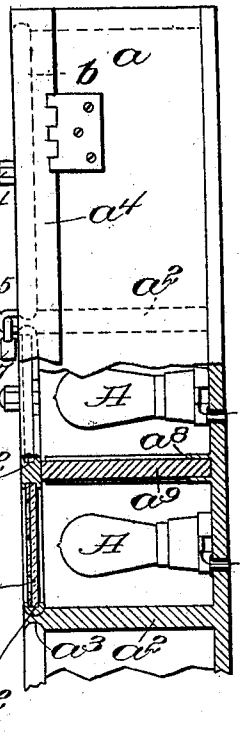
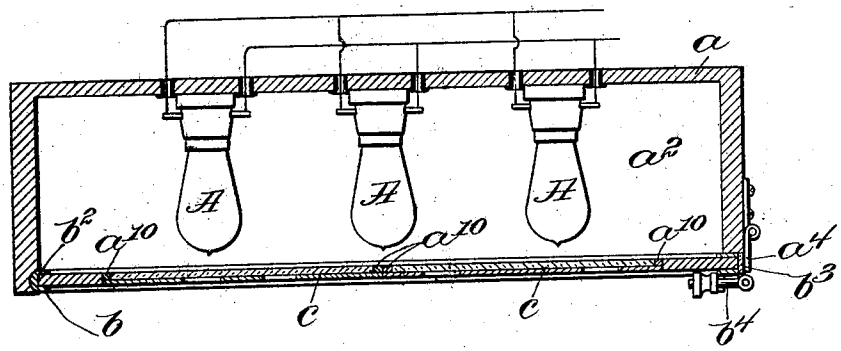


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
Jas. J. Malonoy.
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Paul E. Collins.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PAUL E. COLLINS, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO ELECTRIC NOVELTY MACHINE COMPANY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, A CORPORATION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

TRANSPARENCY.

No. 862,054. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 30, 1907.

Application filed December 7, 1904. Serial No. 235,895.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PAUL E. COLLINS, a citizen of the United States, residing in Boston, county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Transparencies, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

The present invention relates to a transparency, and is mainly intended for use in connection with advertising signs, bulletin boards, &c., where frequent changes are made in the matter displayed.

The invention is embodied in a casing arranged to inclose illuminating elements, such as incandescent electric lamps, the said casing having, at the front, guide ways to receive sliding frames which, in turn, are arranged to receive blocks, each of which is provided, for example, with a transparent letter, so that the blocks can be set up quickly in any desired arrangement, and the slides then put in position in front of the casing.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of an apparatus embodying the invention; Fig. 2 is a side elevation with parts broken away and shown in vertical section; and Fig. 3 is a horizontal section, on line x^3, of Fig. 1.

The casing a which contains the illuminating element such, for example, as the electric lamps A, is open at the front and provided with partitions a^2 which, in conjunction with the end walls of the casing, afford guiding supports for slides b, the partitions and the end walls being provided, for this purpose, with grooves a^3, so that the slides can be inserted endwise. Each of the slides b in turn is provided with guideways b^2 for the insertion of blocks c which are herein shown as formed of glass covered with an opaque substance such as heavy paper in which a form, such as that of a letter is cut, thus making transparent letters upon an opaque background. The blocks designed for use with each slide may be made substantially uniform in type, and any sign desired can be quickly set up by sliding the blocks into place, each slide having a hinged locking member b^3 at the open end to lock the blocks after they have been set up in the slide. As herein shown, the hinged member is held in position by means of a turn bolt b^4. After the letters have been set in the slides, the slides are pushed endwise into the channels a^3 and are locked in position in any suitable way, as by a hinged member a^4, herein shown as provided with a ring a^5 to coöperate with a similar ring a^6 on the face of the casing, so that the parts can be secured together as, for example, by a padlock a^7. It is desirable that the slide openings in the casing should be uniform in size, while the slides themselves may be provided with two or more sets of tracks, if desired, so that variations may be easily made in the size and arrangement of the sign. In the construction shown, for example, the supporting partitions a^2 are separated a distance equal to the width of the top slide which is arranged to take in large letters, and the smaller letters are provided for by providing one of the slides with one or more additional tracks or guide-ways through the middle. This makes the several slides interchangeable, so that, if, for example, two rows of smaller letters were required at the top, and the larger letters below, the two slides can be transposed so that any arrangement desired can be easily obtained. If, in cases where a slide has two or more rows of letters, it is desired to illuminate different rows with different colored lamps, the casing may be provided with a socket or support a^8 to receive a detachable partition a^9, the purpose of which is merely to separate lights of one color from those of another.

As indicated in Fig. 3, the blocks are provided along adjoining edges with strips a^{10} of yielding material, such as rubber, so that when the blocks are set up and pressed together, the light will be wholly obscured except in the transparent design portion.

What I claim is:

1. A casing having projecting walls and parallel partitions forming separate compartments, the walls and compartments being provided with guide grooves; electric lamps contained in said compartments; rectangular slides adpted to be inserted endwise in said grooves; opaque elements uniform in size and having transparent designs therein; and means for securing said elements in a row adjacent to each other in said slide.

2. In a transparency, the combination with a casing having projecting walls; illuminating elements contained in said casing; detachable slides secured in grooves or guide ways formed in said walls; separate transparent members interchangeably secured in said slides; and partitions to separate the illuminating elements behind one slide from those behind another, as set forth.

3. In a transparency, a casing containing illuminating means, and a design portion consisting of interchangeable holders; and a plurality of separate design elements arranged to be assembled in each holder, each design element being provided with a strip of yielding material, whereby light is wholly excluded between adjacent elements.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

PAUL E. COLLINS.

Witnesses:

HENRY J. LIVERMORE,

JAS. J. MALONEY.